REMARK

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

By the current response, Applicants amend independent claims 40, 43 and 54 to further clarify the claimed invention and to emphasize distinctions of the present invention over U.S. Patent 5,664,227 to MAULDIN et al. of which U.S. Patent 5,835,667 to WACTLAR et al. is incorporated therein), and to address concerns raised by the Examiner with respect to a rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicants submit that support for the herein-contained claim amendments may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0105], [0162] and [0168] of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0129371 of the present application..

In the Office Action, claims 40-47, 49, 50 and 52-54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. In setting forth this rejection, the Office Action asserts that independent claims 40, 43 and 54 (incorrectly denoted as claim 53) specifies features which are not supported in the specification. While Applicants disagree with the assertions in the Office Action, Applicants have amended the claims to delete the language indicated to be of concern. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the ground for this objection no longer exists, and respectfully requests that it be withdrawn.

Claims 40, 41, 43, 44, 49, 50 and 52-54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by MAULDIN et al. (of which WACTLAR et al. is incorporated by reference). Claims 42 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over MAUDLIN et al. in view of RUSSO et al., while claims 46 and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over MAUDLIN et al. in view of JAIN et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these grounds of rejection.

According to a non-limiting embodiment of the invention (using independent claim 40 as an example), a media distribution apparatus comprises a server that selectively distributes views comprising original media of content and a preview summarizing the content, to an external client terminal connected via a network. The media distribution apparatus includes a storer that stores the views, and first metadata that explains the views. The first metadata comprises a plurality of segments and describes viewpoint information and time information. The viewpoint information and the time information are assigned on a segment-by-segment basis, with the viewpoint information comprising a keyword included in the first metadata for explaining the content. The media distribution apparatus also includes a request receiver that receives a distribution request from the external client terminal, in which the distribution request includes identification information that identifies the content, at least one viewpoint information for extracting segments of the first metadata, comprising the keyword included in the first metadata for explaining the content, information that indicates one of a media distribution request and a preview distribution request, and desired time information that is desired by a user of the external client terminal, with the identification information and the viewpoint information being selected from list information that is distributed in advance, where the list information comprises the identification information of the content, a plurality of viewpoint information assigned to each segment making up the first metadata, and playback time information of the content. A request analyzer of the media distribution apparatus determines whether the distribution request received by the request receiver is the media distribution request or the preview distribution request for the content. When the received distribution request is determined to be the preview distribution request, a media extractor/generator of the media distribution apparatus

extracts, from the first metadata, a plurality of segments for making up the preview, adapted to the at least one viewpoint information included in the received preview distribution request with respect to content corresponding to the identification information included in the received preview distribution request, and dynamically generates the preview having a time length corresponding to the desired time information included in the received preview distribution request, by fixing a plurality of segments as second metadata so as to have the time length corresponding to the desired time information, using the time information assigned to the extracted plurality of segments, and combining the views stored in the storer corresponding to the plurality of segments fixed as the second metadata, in which the second metadata is different from the first metadata. A media transmitter of the media distribution apparatus then transmits the generated preview to the external client terminal. Independent claims 43 and 54 recite similar structure.

As generally recited in the amended independent claims, a feature of the present invention resides in dynamically generating, in response to a preview distribution request from a external client terminal, a preview adapted to the user's request, from views, and distributing the preview.

According to the claimed invention, first metadata that describes viewpoint information (i.e., a keyword) and time information that are assigned on a segment-by-segment basis are generated and stored in advance. The viewpoint information for extracting segments, assigned to each segment making up the first metadata, in addition to identification information for identifying content is included in list information that is distributed in advance. Further, a preview distribution request is included to receive, from the external client terminal, content identification information and at least one

viewpoint information, information that indicates one of a media distribution request and a preview distribution request, and time information that is desired by a user. The claimed invention further specifies selecting the identification information and at least one viewpoint information included in the distribution request from the list information (which includes identification information, a plurality of viewpoint information and playback time information). It is then determined whether the distribution request is a media distribution request or a preview distribution request. When the distribution request is determined to be a preview distribution request, a plurality of segments adapted to at least one viewpoint information included in the preview distribution request from the first metadata is extracted. Using the time information assigned to the plurality of extracted segments, a plurality of segments are set as second metadata so as to have a time length corresponding to the desired time information included in the preview distribution request, and a preview is dynamically generated by combining views corresponding to the plurality of segments set as second metadata.

Accordingly, in the invention defined by the amended independent claims, in response to a preview distribution request, a preview is dynamically generated from views in response to a user's request. In order to do this, the claimed invention uses first metadata, list information, and a preview distribution request, including viewpoint information to extract segments, and, when a preview distribution request is received, segments adapted to viewpoint information are extracted from the first metadata, and a plurality of segments are set as second metadata so as to have a time length adapted to the user's desired time. Applicants submit that at least these features are not taught by the applied art of record.

An essential feature of the presently claimed invention is to generate different metadata (i.e., second metadata) from metadata generated in advance (i.e., first metadata) in order to dynamically generate a preview. Thus, the presently claimed invention reduces the storage capacity required by the storer to store the first metadata that describes viewpoint information (i.e., keyword) and time information, in order to dynamically generate previews, and create second metadata and dynamically generate a preview in response to the request from the client (user), instead of having to generate and store previews in advance. See, for example, paragraph [0179] of Applicants' U.S. publication.

Secondly, the claimed invention provides that a preview can be generated "dynamically", taking into account viewpoint information designated by the client (user). This enables the client (user) to reliably determine whether the content is the client's desired content by viewing a preview prepared from the client's desired views, thereby more reliably ensuring the distribution of desired content to the client. See, for example, paragraph [0180] of Applicants' U.S. publication.

Applicants submit that MAUDLIN et al. (with WACTLAR et al. incorporated therein) both fail to disclose the above-discussed features of the claimed invention. That is, Applicants submit that MAUDLIN et al. and WACTLAR et al. both fail to disclose (or even suggest) dynamically generating a preview in response to a distribution request and distributing the preview. MAUDLIN et al. and WACTLAR et al. are also submitted to fail to disclose (or suggest) providing information tools for realizing the above feature, such as Applicants' claimed first metadata, Applicants' claimed list information, and Applicants' claimed preview distribution request, or providing an information processing method of generating second metadata from first metadata.

MAUDLIN et al. teaches that video data is divided into video segments and a representative frame is selected from each video segment, with the selected representative frames being combined to form a compressed video sequence. See, for example, column 3, lines 21-31 of MAUDLIN et al. Thus, Applicants submit that MAUDLIN et al. teaches a method and system for skimming digital audio/video data. WACTLAR et al. teaches a method and apparatus for creating a searchable digital video library. Applicants submit that these teachings bear no relationship to the present invention, which is directed to dynamically generating and distributing a preview in response to a distribution request.

As the applied art of record fails to disclose each and every feature of Applicants' claimed invention, Applicants submit that claims 40, 41, 43, 44, 49, 50 and 52-54 are not anticipated by MAUDLIN et al. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection set forth in the Office Action.

Applicants further submit that the remaining applied documents (i.e., RUSSO et al. and JAIN et al) fail to disclose that which is lacking in MAUDLIN et al. (with WACTLAR et al. incorporated therein). Accordingly, even if one attempted to combine the various documents in the various manners suggested in the Office Action, Applicants submit such combinations would fail to result in the dynamic generation and distribution of a preview in response to a distribution request, as specified by Applicants' amended claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the various 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections also be withdrawn.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

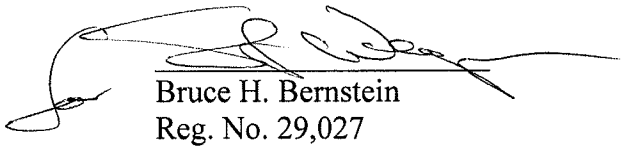
In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as now defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the

Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Koichi EMURA et al.



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